

Dear Mr. Powell,

Please do not remove existing regulations on media ownership. It's bad enough that 5 companies already control the majority of what we see, hear, and read these days. If you "relax" the ownership rules, it will only get worse. The FCC was formed with the intent to protect public interest, so that no business conglomerate would ever get too much power and control over media content. The censorship and "spinning" of the war coverage in Iraq is a prime example of why we can't let too few organizations bear the responsibility of reporting the news. America didn't see a war, they saw a video game with football type commentators. We never saw the real casualties or the destruction we caused, because the media chose (perhaps on Government orders) not to portray it. If you allow the rules to be changed and remove restrictions on how many stations can be owned, then the rich conservatives will get richer, and dissenting points of view will never be heard. Given the amount of influence media has over people's thoughts & votes in this country, that is a very dangerous thing. Perhaps that itself is your goal. I believe the FCC is acting in a way that is completely un-American and you should be ashamed for promoting it. If your plan were really beneficial to the public, why not hold open and public debates on the issue? Why wait until the last minute and only let people post their comments on a web site that undoubtedly no one will look at seriously? Because you do not have the interests of the people at heart and you do not want to hear arguments against your plan. It seems to me that in making these suggestions, you are opting for your own demise as an agency, since there will be little to "regulate" with so few people in control. I urge you to squash this plan and leave existing protections alone. If anything, they need to be strengthened! Sincerely, Melissa Warren